

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
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APO9>NICARAGUA/U.S./>JENNINGS: ABC's John McWethy reported on this broadcast <
>AID>last night that Nicaragua's Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega has been meeting in Nicaragua with the prime minister of Iran. The Reagan administration used the occasion of that Iranian visit today to try to drum up support for its Central American policies. President Reagan was talking to a group of Latin American politicians and here is Sam Donaldson.

DONALDSON: A new administration push for domestic support for its anti-Nicaraguan policy was launched today, with a presidential warning about new danger in Central America. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: A new danger we see in Central America is the support being given to Sandinistas by Col. Khadafy's Libya, the PLO and, most recently, the Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran.

DONALDSON: Iran, whose prime minister Hussein Moussavi arrived in Managua yesterday for a three-day visit. Moussavi, who was greeted by Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, is not only prime minister, he's also thought to be the man in direct charge of Iran's worldwide terrorist activities. That just adds to the administration's resolve to step up the pressure on Nicaragua's Sandinista regime. Last week, Washington announced its refusal to argue a World Court case brought by Nicaragua against the U.S. And last week, Washington suspended talks with the Sandinistas over the two countries differences. And today, the president made clear he wants a resumption of U.S. aid to the contra rebel troops fighting the Sandinistas. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: Sandinistas have been attacking their neighbors through arms subversion since August of 1979. Countering this by supporting Nicaraguan freedom fighters is essentially acting in self-defense.

DONALDSON: The administration's problem is that Congress appears to have no appetite for resuming under-the-table covert aid to the contras and few seem to have an appetite for beginning on-the-table overt aid to them, since that would be an act of war. So the administration seems to be searching tonight for something in between, but no one's figured out yet what that might be. Sam Donaldson, ABC News, the White House. <